

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 221529Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5481

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON PFOR EG SU US

SUBJ: EGYPT, SUDAN RENEW AGRICULTURAL COOPERATION AIMS

REF: CAIRO 9785

1. IN CONTRAST TO MOST, RECENT EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE DISCUSSIONS, WHICH WERE POLITICAL IN NATURE, PRESS ANNOUNCED JULY 21 RENEWED PLANS FOR AGRICULTURAL AND IRRIGATION INTEGRATION AS DESCRIBED IN ANCILLARY JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED JULY 20. COMMUNIQUE SIGNED BY EGYPTIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION ABUL ATTA AND SUDANESE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND ELECTRIC POWER EL-ZAIN AFTER WHAT APPEAR TO BE SUPPLEMENTARY DISCUSSIONS TO THOSE HELD BETWEEN SADAT AND NUMAYRI IN ALEXANDRIA. ACCORDING TO AVAILABLE DETAILS, MAJOR POINTS OF AGREEMENT ARE: (A) EXECUTION OF LE 18 MILLION JONGLEE CANAL PROJECT WILL COMMENCE, (B) SCALE OF SUGAR CANE CULTIVATION WILL BE INCREASED (PRESUMABLY IN SUDAN), AND (C) LEGAL PROCEDURES TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT

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"EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL JOINT VENTURE"

WILL BE STUDIED.

2. COMMUNIQUE ALSO MENTIONS FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS: (A) APPROVAL RECOMMENDED FOR STUDY OF WADI AL-KHIWWY AND HOD AL-SELIM PROJECTS, BUT POSTPONEMENT OF FINAL DECISIONS ON PROJECTS ALSO RECOMMENDED PENDING RESULTS OF PRESIDENT NUMAYRI'S RECENT VISIT TO U.S., (B) GOE SHOULD PROMULGATE STATUTES OF EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE IRRIGATION AND CONSTRUCTION JOINT VENTURE. TWO PARTIES AGREED JOINT VENTURE'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS SHOULD BE APPOINTED BEFORE NEXT MEETING OF HIGHER COMMITTEE. TWO PARTIES ALSO AGREED TO HONOR CAPITALIZATION SUBSCRIPTIONS, (C) JOINT LAKE NASSER COMMITTEE SHOULD BE FORMED TO COORDINATE VARIOUS STUDIES AND JOINT VENTURES INVOLVING LAKE NASSER, (D) TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY OF LAND RECLAMATION PROJECT IN SOUTHERN SUDAN SHOULD BE CONSIDERED. (E) ESTABLISHMENT OF AFRICAN-ARAB SUB-SOIL WATER COMPANY SHOULD BE CONSIDERED (NO FURTHER DETAILS), (F) PERMANENT JOINT NILE WATER TECHNICAL AUTHORITY WILL NOTIFY GOE AND GOS OF PROGRESS MADE IN CONTRACTING WITH FRENCH FIRM FOR CONSTRUCTION OF JONGLEE CANAL.

3. COMMUNIQUE ALSO MENTIONS THAT EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE INDUSTRY AND MINING COMMITTEE WILL MEET IN CAIRO JULY 27.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY KHARTOUM WILL BE IN BETTER POSITION TO JUDGE SIGNIFICANCE OF COMMUNIQUE FOR LONG PROPOSED EGYPTIAN-SUDANESE AGRICULTURAL INTEGRATION COOPERATION. IT APPEARS TO US TO REPRESENT NO MAJOR NEW DEPARTURES. ACCORDING ACCOMPANYING PRESS REPORTS, EGYPTIAN MINSTATE FOR AGRICULTURE ABD AL-AZIZ HUSSEIN WILL GO TO KHARTOUM FOR FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION BEFORE END OF JULY. WE PLAN TO GET DEBRIEFING FROM HIM AFTER HIS RETURN AND WILL REPORT SIGNIFICANT RESULTS.
EILTS

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